

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 081798B]

**Marine Mammals**

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Issuance of permit amendment.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that Dr. Robin Baird, Biology Department, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3H 4J1 Canada, has been issued an amendment to scientific research Permit No. 926.

**ADDRESSES:** The amendment and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following offices:

Permits Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289);

Regional Administrator, Northwest Regional Office, NMFS, NOAA, 7600 Sand Point Way, NE., BIN C15700, Seattle, WA 98115, (206/526-6150);

Regional Administrator, Alaska Regional Office, NMFS, NOAA, 709 West 9th Street, Federal Building, Juneau, Alaska 99802 (907/586-72212); and

Regional Administrator, Southwest Regional Office, NMFS, NOAA, 501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213 (562/980-4001).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jeannie Drevenak, 301/713-2289.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On June 30, 1998, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (63 FR 35568) that an amendment of permit No. 926, issued June 6, 1994 (59 FR 31217), had been requested by the above-named individual. The requested amendment has been issued under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR Part 216), the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and the Regulations Governing the Taking, Importing, and Exporting of Endangered Fish and Wildlife (50 CFR part 222).

Issuance of this amendment, as required by the ESA, was based on a finding that such permit: (1) Was applied for in good faith; (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of the endangered species which is the subject

of this permit; and (3) is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

Dated: September 15, 1998.

**Ann D. Terbush,**

*Chief, Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 98-25462 Filed 9-22-98; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-F**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****Patent and Trademark Office**

[Docket No. 980605148-8148-01]

**Request for Comments on Interim Guidelines for Examination of Patent Applications Under the 35 U.S.C. 112 ¶ 1 "Written Description" Requirement; Extension of Comment Period and Notice of Hearing**

**AGENCY:** Patent and Trademark Office, Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of hearings, extension of comment period and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) will hold public hearings, and it requests comments, on issues relating to the "written description" requirement under 35 U.S.C. 112 ¶ 1. Interested members of the public are invited to testify at public hearings and to present written comments on any of the topics outlined in the supplementary information section of this notice.

**DATES:** Public hearings will be held on Wednesday, November 4, 1998, and Friday, November 6, 1998, starting each day at 9 a.m. and ending no later than 5:00 p.m.

Those wishing to present oral testimony at either of the hearings must request an opportunity to do so no later than Friday, October 30. Speakers may provide a written copy of their testimony for inclusion in the record of the proceedings no later than November 12, 1998.

To ensure consideration, written comments should be received at the PTO by November 12, 1998. Written comments and transcripts of the hearings will be available for public inspection on or about Monday, November 16, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** The November 4th hearing will be held at the Marriott Long Wharf, Salons D, E, F, 296 State Street, Boston, MA 02109. Questions regarding the facilities and lodging should be directed to the Marriott Long Wharf, TEL (617) 227-0800, FAX (617) 227-2867.

The November 6th hearing will be held at The Sheraton San Diego Hotel & Marina, West Tower, Coronado Ballroom, 1590 Harbor Island Drive, San Diego, CA 92101-1092. Questions regarding the facilities and lodging should be directed to The Sheraton San Diego Hotel & Marina, West Tower, TEL (619) 291-2900, FAX (619) 692-2337.

Requests to testify should be sent to Mary Critharis by telephone at (703) 305-9300, by facsimile transmission at (703) 305-8885, or by mail marked to attention of Mary Critharis addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box 4, Washington, DC 20231. No requests for oral testimony will be accepted through electronic mail.

Written comments should be addressed to Box 8, Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, marked to the attention of Scott A. Chambers, Associate Solicitor, or to Box Comments, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, marked to the attention of Linda S. Therkorn. Comments may be submitted by facsimile transmission to Scott A. Chambers at (703) 305-9373, or to Linda S. Therkorn at (703) 305-8825. Comments may be submitted by electronic mail to [scott.chambers@uspto.gov](mailto:scott.chambers@uspto.gov), or to [linda.therkorn@uspto.gov](mailto:linda.therkorn@uspto.gov).

Written comments and transcripts of the hearings will be maintained for public inspection in Suite 918 of Crystal Park Two, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, Virginia. Transcripts and comments provided in machine readable format will be available through anonymous file transfer protocol (ftp) via the Internet (address: [comments.uspto.gov](http://comments.uspto.gov)) and through the World Wide Web (address: [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Scott A. Chambers by telephone at (703) 305-9035, by facsimile transmission at (703) 305-9373, by mail to his attention addressed to Box 8, Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, DC 20231, or by electronic mail at [scott.chambers@uspto.gov](mailto:scott.chambers@uspto.gov); or Linda S. Therkorn by telephone at (703) 305-8800, by facsimile at (703) 305-8825, by mail to her attention addressed to Box Comments, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, or by electronic mail at [linda.therkorn@uspto.gov](mailto:linda.therkorn@uspto.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****I. Background**

Interim Guidelines for Examination of Patent Applications Under the 35 U.S.C. 112 ¶ 1, "Written Description" Requirement were published at 63 FR